

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A tube plug assembly comprising: a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a constant diameter smooth outer surface, a rounded front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined constant internal diameter extending substantially along an entire length of said hole; and a non-expandable insert member having a diameter slightly greater than said blind hole diameter, an outer surface which engages an inner surface of said blind hole in a liquid tight manner comprising annular ribs, said ribs comprising reverse taper serrations, an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole and a hole extending perpendicular to an axis of said insert member formed in said enlarged head portion arranged to accept a removal tool; wherein, upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged along substantially a full length of said insert.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.

8- 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A tube plug assembly comprising: a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a smooth outer surface, a rounded front end and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole having a predetermined internal constant diameter extending substantially along an entire length of said hole; and a non-expandable insert member having a diameter extending substantially along its entire length which is slightly greater than said blind hole diameter, an outer surface comprising annular ribs formed of reverse taper serrations and an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole, said enlarged head portion including a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool; wherein, upon insertion of said insert

member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged along substantially said full length of said insert.

22-23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) A tube plug assembly according to claim 1, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.

25. (Previously Presented) A sealed tube comprising:
a tube having an interior passage with a constant predetermined diameter leading to an open end;

a tube plug made of an elastomeric material and having a generally hollow body elongated along an axis, with a rounded front end inserted into said open end of said tube, an exterior surface engaged with said interior passage of said tube along substantially an entire length of said exterior surface, and an open rear end leading to a central axially extending blind hole; and

a non-expandable insert member sized to engage with a wall forming said blind hole as said insert member is inserted into said tube plug, said insert member having an outer surface which engages an inner surface of said blind hole in a liquid tight manner, said outer surface provided with a plurality of annular ribs comprising reverse taper serrations, said insert member having an enlarged head portion which prevents said insert member from being over inserted into said central blind hole, said enlarged head portion including a surface configuration arranged to accept a removal tool, wherein, upon insertion of said tube plug into said open end of said tube and upon insertion of said insert member into said central blind hole of said tube plug, and without further manipulation of said insert, said tube plug body will be diametrically enlarged along substantially said full length of said insert, sealingly pressing said exterior surface of said tube plug into engagement with said interior passage of said tube.

26-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said insert member is provided in a color contrasting to a color of said tube plug.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A sealed tube according to claim 25, wherein said blind hole has a constant diameter extending substantially along its entire length.

34. (Canceled)